

**Town of Royalston  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, April 4, 2006**

Present: Andrew West, Thomas Kellner, and Linda Alger.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:34 p.m. Linda Alger was welcomed as a new member of the Board.
2. Reorganization: Mr. Kellner made a motion to nominate Mr. West as the new chairman. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. Mr. Kellner and Ms. Alger both voted yes to the motion.
3. The minutes of the 3/21/06 meeting were read. One correction was made and noted. Mr. Kellner made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner and Mr. West, yes; with Ms. Alger abstaining.
4. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
  - a) Discussion was held regarding whether or not a Special Town Meeting should be called to vote on how to spend excess tax money of \$50,000. The Board decided to hold off on a decision until the end of the meeting.
  - b) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from the Library for use of the Town Hall on 4/20/06 and to waive the fee. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club for a lottery permit and to charge a fee of \$10. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - d) Mr. West will contact Stephen Frizzell regarding his previous duties as a representative to the Montachusett Opportunity Council for the Towns of Royalston, Phillipston, and Templeton.
5. Department Heads Report:
  - a) DPW –
    - 1) Keith Newton clarified that he has sent the letter to the District II office to request information they have about Route 32. He will pick up the documents tomorrow. Discussion was held on the project engineering timelines. Mr. Newton will schedule a meeting with Guertin Associates after he has obtained the documents from Mass Highway. Mr. West proposed that consistent messages from the Board regarding the Route 32 project be noted in the Newsletter.
    - 2) Mr. Newton reported on bids received for excess property.
    - 3) Mr. Newton requested a meeting with the Board to discuss his contract, which expires on 6/30/06.
    - 4) Mr. West will contact Mr. Tuttle to reschedule the grievance hearing.
    - 5) Mr. West asked about the clean-up of property on King Street. Mr. Newton stated that clean up has begun and debris was brought to the transfer station, but he was asked by the Board of Health to bring in smaller amounts.
  - b) Police Department –
    - 1) Chief Deveneau reported that six Zylon vests, previously authorized for purchase by the Board, have been ordered. He has filed for reimbursement under the lawsuit.

- 2) Officers are finishing up inservice academy tonight.
- 3) There is a problem with the permit processing computer system. Sergeant Gelinas is trying to get it straightened out.
- 4) Chief Deveneau stated that now that the Town has accepted the NIMS Emergency Management System, departments must be knowledgeable on what is expected of them. Lack of training could jeopardize state and federal grant money. Mr. West will send letters to department heads requesting copies of applicable training certificates.

c) Building Department –

- 1) Geoff Newton reported that there is vandalism occurring at 1 School Street. It is abandoned property and considered a public nuisance. He would like to have it demolished and would need money to go through Housing Court. He will get an estimate on cost for demolition and also will inspect the building and secure it so vandals cannot enter. Mr. Kellner suggested that an article be put on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for demolition costs.
  - 2) Mr. Newton stated that he has filed paperwork in Housing Court on removal of two trailers on North Fitzwilliam Road.
  - 3) Discussion was held on Citations for Bylaw Violations and the need for a Municipal Hearings Officer as noted in MGL, Chapter 304.
6. Nancy & Scott Monette – Tony Road: Mrs. Monette reported that they have the approval of all Boards and now need to have the road accepted, so they can get a driveway permit and building permit. Keith Newton said that the road must be a public way for them to continue to extend the road out 650 feet. It would never be satisfactory for a road due to extensive beaver damage. He expressed concern that we would be starting a precedent for opening up discontinued roads. Mr. Kellner made a motion to put an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to vote to accept the road. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. After some discussion, Mr. Kellner made a motion to hold a public hearing prior to the closing of the annual town meeting warrant and to notify abutters. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. West will work with Helen Divoll to schedule the public hearing for 4/18/06 at 8:00 p.m.
7. Old Business:
- a) Zoning Bylaw Hearing – Kim MacPhee gave a brief report on the hearing that was held prior to this meeting. Since a large volume of mailings will need to be sent out during the Zoning Bylaw project, she suggested that the town acquire a bulk-mailing permit. She will look into the cost.
  - b) Prices on Sandwich Boards – Mr. West reported that the cost for these boards is approximately \$300. He would like to have one put on the South Royalston and Royalston commons for notices about elections, town meetings, etc. He suggested that an article for the cost of the boards be put on the ATM warrant.
  - c) Mr. West spoke with George Woodbury and has taken action to purchase all of the town's streetlights at a cost of \$6000. He proposed that an article be placed on the ATM warrant.

8. New Business:

- a) Request for Beer & Wine License – A request was received from the Royalston Cultural Council for a beer & wine license for Blues Night on 5/13/06. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the license and to waive the fee. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

- b) Mr. Kellner made a motion to request a reserve fund transfer for the Legal Account in the amount of \$2000, as there will only be \$82.55 remaining once the most recent bill is paid. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
  - c) Mr. Kellner made a motion to call a Special Town Meeting for 4/21/06 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and to open the warrant. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to place an article on the warrant to transfer \$40,000 to Stabilization. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to place a second article on the warrant regarding \$4525 for bulletproof vests for the police department. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to place a third article on the warrant for \$300 for a bulk-mailing permit. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Kellner made a motion to close the special town meeting warrant. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
9. At 11:08 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. The regular meeting will reconvene to sign the Treasury Warrant, to open the annual town meeting warrant, and to adjourn.
10. The regular meeting reconvened at 11:23 p.m.
11. Mr. Kellner made a motion to call the Annual Town Meeting on 5/5/06 at 7:00 p.m. at the Royalston Community School, to open the warrant, and to close the warrant on 4/18/06. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
12. The Treasury Warrant was signed.
13. At 11:33 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to adjourn, with Ms. Alger seconding. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

